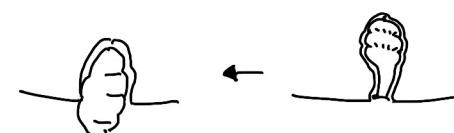


The eggs hatch and feed inside the caterpillar. The caterpillar will continue to eat, grow and even defend predators.



But how about "entomophagous" parasites? Perhaps insect-to-insect parasitism sounds better than a human botfly... Female parasitic wasps first find the proper host and lays her eggs inside the host (a caterpillar in this case) -



The larva feeds on the host's flesh, matures and pupates. Eventually it drops off the host and emerges as adult botfly.

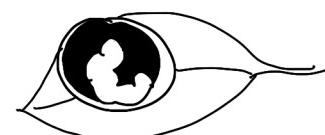
Eventually only an empty shell of the caterpillar is left. The wasp larvae chews out of the skin, spins a cocoon and pupates!



It is a form of parental care on the part of the wasp, ensuring a higher survival rate for their offspring. On a more positive note, these parasitic wasps are good for garden pest control when those caterpillars are eating your vegetables...



The gall-making insect injects chemical to promote host plant to grow a gall. The plant tissue forms a protective shell around the larva that also provides food.



Gall-making insects actually make quite beautiful galls!

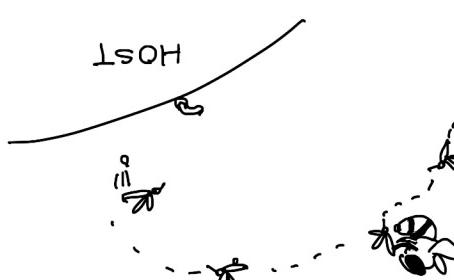


Sometimes the galls are even used for flower arrangement as well as medicines.

Bofflies generally do not cause too much irritation around the infected area and a few grams of flesh! Compared to a lion eating a arm to the human host except for some irritation around the infected area and a few grams of flesh!

Staying inside the host reduces their food competition and exposure to predators. Why do they do it?

The larva then hatches and burrows into the skin



Causes the egg to drop off...

The female botfly lays her eggs on a mosquito near the human host. When the mosquito quite to and releases it. When the mosquito



humans

The botfly is known to parasitize humans for example, parasites of mammals:

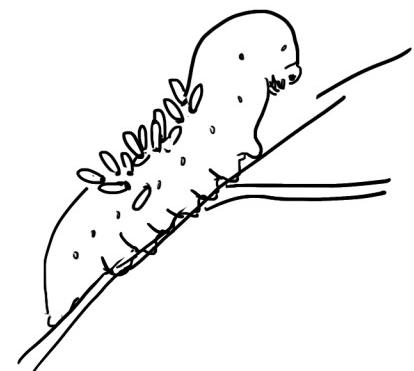
What is parasitism? It is very similar to predation: in both cases a creature gains benefit at the expense of other organisms. Think of parasites as a slower form of predation. The parasites are just trying to feed on the host like lions need to feed gazelle.

But parasitism is much more interesting than just unpleasant images...



The tapeworm might be the first mental image that appears when the word "parasite" is mentioned.

## Parasitophobia



the Small Science Collective  
<https://http://smallsciencezines.blogspot.com/>

by Shelly Liu (2014)

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(on predators that like to procrastinate)